

Opposition To 20% Tax On Tix

NFB Th. Series In 325 Houses

National Film Board theatrical productions, which average about 30 per year, are now booked into 300 English-language motion picture houses and 25 French-language theatres in the Dominion. Proof of the satisfactory quality of NFB films generally

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Says Trade Dozes In Video Field

While all new theatres being built by the major Canadian circuits and many of those being constructed by Independents are fully equipped for television, there has been no clarification as yet of the role televised broadcasts will play in theatres in the

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Patrons Shying From Boxoffice As War-Boom Dough Declines

With business falling off and expenses mounting, the time has come for the removal of the 20 per cent Dominion amusement tax on admissions to motion picture theatres, the Manitoba Motion Picture Exhibitors Association recently

informed the Hon. D. C. Abbott, KC, MP, Minister of Finance, in a resolution signed by Mesho Triller, president, and B. K. Beach, secretary.

The tax, the Association contended, was one of the main reasons for the decline in attendance which followed the end of war-created prosperity. Earners of smaller incomes are mainly affected and this has influenced

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Montreal Branches Change Quarters

Regal, Empire-Universal, Sovereign and Odeon have moved from the Tramways Building, Montreal, to the new Northern Film Exchange on Alexander Street.

RKO will move from its present quarters on the Monkland Avenue film block to the larger offices vacated by Monogram and spend considerable money to improve them.

Peerless Film will occupy the offices vacated by RKO.

Paramount Film Service is planning a new exchange in Saint John and Regal Films has a site in Toronto.

ASCAP A Cartel USA Gov't Says

After years of frequent litigation between theatre men and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, usually referred to as ASCAP, the anti-trust division of the USA Department of Justice has stepped in, charging in the New York

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BC Theatre Sold

J. R. Cameron has sold his theater in Ashcroft, BC, which he has operated for over 20 years, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Rogers and T. Belshaw. House seats 180.

Paramount Program All-Time Tops

The most expensive program in Paramount history will be that of 1947-48, Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, told the recent annual Canadian sales convention, presided over in Toronto by Gordon Lightstone. Accompanying Reagan were Oscar Morgan, head of short subjects sales, and Curtis Mitchell, the company's advertising and publicity director.

Morgan pointed out that Paramount would increase the number of its short subjects at a time when, because of increased costs, other companies may drop theirs altogether. The boxoffice quality

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New BC House Open

L. B. Toffey and O. Bird opened their new theatre, the Clova, in Cloverdale, BC, recently.

RKO, Rank To Make 'Ivanhoe' In England

"Ivanhoe" will be filmed in Technicolor next summer in England by RKO Radio in conjunction with J. Arthur Rank, it is announced by Dore Schary, RKO vice-president in charge of production.

This multi-million dollar production will stem from "The Black Knight," a free adaptation of the Sir Walter Scott classic by Aeneas Mackenzie, which RKO Radio has purchased from Paramount.

LAURIE QUILTS EAGLE-LION

Archie J. Laurie, who has been general manager of Eagle-Lion Films of Canada Limited since the company's organization, is retiring from that post on July 12th.

Laurie has headed the Canadian outlet for films of the J. Arthur Rank Organization during the period when they were being introduced to and established in the Canadian market and he was responsible for direction of the special promotion, advertising and exploitation campaigns involved.

Laurie, a veteran of both distribution and exhibition in Canada, has a quarter-century of experience in the Canadian industry and is one of its best-known figures at home and abroad.

His future plans, Laurie said, would not be announced until after a holiday but "would not necessarily be concerned with distribution."

Laurie's resignation apparently indicates a reshuffling of personnel in Rank's Canadian distribution setup, which has made continued progress since the former assumed charge of it several years ago.

WB Buys 'Patriots' For \$250,000

Sidney Kingsley's Broadway play, "The Patriots," regarded as one of the most important dramatic properties of the last decade, has been acquired for the screen by Warner Bros. for \$250,000, it was announced recently by Jack L. Warner, executive producer.

Roy Chanslor's Book Bought By Paramount

Against spirited bidding, Paramount has acquired rights to "Hazard," forthcoming novel by Roy Chanslor, one of Hollywood's best known screen authors. The purchase was made from galley proofs of the book which will be published August 12 by Simon and Schuster.

MAY STOP FILM MEN FLYING

With the loss of C. E. Peppiatt and Sam Gross, 20th-Fox executives, in an air crash, some of the companies may ban air travel. Victor Armand, FPCC executive, was lost in a recent accident off Vancouver, the plane having fallen into the ocean.

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MOMENTS, AND
FOR THESE
MOMENTS WE
GIVE OUR LIVES



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THE GOODS WITH
ANOTHER SMASH HIT

WITH A CELEBRATED
ALL STAR CAST

DOUGLASS MONTGOMERY

"JOHNNY HOLLIS" in "THE WAY TO THE STARS"

JOYCE HOWARD

YVONNE ARNAUD

RALPH TRUMAN

"MOUNTJOY" in "HENRY V"

Distributed by P.R.C.

Opens at Victoria and Capitol, Toronto

An ANGLO-AMERICAN Picture

released through

PRODUCERS RELEASING CORPORATION

NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL BRANCHES



ARCHIE J. LAURIE

He has retired as general manager of Eagle-Lion Films of Canada, a post which he has held since its inception.

ASCAP A Cartel USA Gov't Says

(Continued from Page 1)

Federal Court that it is illegally engaged in a world-wide cartel and conspiracy to monopolize musical performing rights.

ASCAP is represented in Canada by the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, commonly called CAPAC, which was formerly known as the Canadian Performing Right Society. The Dominion organization has also been involved in frequent court action with exhibitors.

With the news of the government's action came the announcement that ASCAP had resigned from the International Confederation of Authors and Composers Societies, according to the department of Justice a partner to the conspiracy. It is thought that this was a counter-move by ASCAP.

In Canada the Copyright Appeal Board meets annually at Ottawa, listens to CAPAC and its clients, then fixes the tariff.

ASCAP, which was formed in 1914 to collect royalties and protect the copyrights of its members, is described in the complaint as the world's largest musical performing rights society and the organization that controls virtually all performing rights in the United States.

The government alleges that ASCAP has joined with similar organizations in principal foreign countries to cross-license each other exclusively.

Attorney-General Tom Clark said the Justice Department had found that thousands of businesses, such as radio stations, theatres, hotels, dance halls and restaurants, had been prevented from getting music from abroad except through ASCAP.

Opposition to 20% Tax on Tickets

(Continued from Page 1)

the patronage of neighborhood theatres particularly.

The communication to Abbott reads as follows:

"All motion picture theatres in Winnipeg are members of our Association, and all large theatres outside of Winnipeg in Manitoba, and a good many of the smaller ones, are also members of our Association. In fact we feel that we represent all the exhibitors in the Province and that we are entitled to speak on their behalf and make to you the representations which are contained in this letter.

"At the annual general meeting of our Association, which was held recently at Winnipeg, a considered discussion took place relative to the 20% federal excise tax levied on our theatre tickets; and it was the unanimous decision of the meeting that representations should be made to you with the object of having this tax removed as being very unfair under existing circumstances especially when the history of its imposition in the first place is taken into account.

"This tax was imposed as an emergency war measure in the early part of the war, but as long as the war created a ready flow of cash among all citizens of Canada the tax was willingly paid by theatregoers and perhaps created no detriment to the owners of the theatres, because while money was readily available, very little thought was given by the public to the extra 20% added to the cost of admission.

"With the war over, with things rapidly returning to normal, and with money not as readily available to the general public, we find that since October, 1946, there has been a steady decline in paid admissions in all our theatres. In short, business is rapidly falling off while expenses are steadily mounting, and will undoubtedly go much higher in the near future. During the war, increases in wages were granted by the Labour Boards, but to some considerable extent the ceiling prevented wages from rocketing. Now, with governmental check on wages removed, wage costs have increased and will continue to do so. While we

mention wages in particular as an outstanding item, it must be borne in mind that all expenses of operating our theatres are increasing: advertising, supplies, maintenance, repairs, heating and film rental, which is an important item in our line.

"To sum up: Our expenses have risen and are steadily rising, while our revenue is rapidly dropping, because fewer people are attending the theatres; and one of the main reasons for the drop in attendance is this extra 20% in the price of admission. In this connection, it must be remembered that it is the people in the lower income brackets who are mainly affected by this 20% tax, and this is especially noticeable in the drop in our neighborhood theatres.

"We would ask you to kindly take all the above facts into consideration, and we feel justified in respectfully urging you to give us relief in the only direction in which you can; namely, the removal of the 20% tax, which, as was pointed out, was imposed as a war emergency measure. May we point out that the effect of removal of this tax will not only constitute much-needed relief to the members of our Association, but will also have the effect of encouraging attendance in our theatres which afford very useful and instructive amusement to that large group of citizens whose incomes are in the lower brackets and who have to budget their expenses closely.

"The above is respectfully submitted to you on behalf of the Motion Picture Exhibitors of Manitoba, with the earnest request that you would be so kind as to take all these details into consideration and let us have a favorable reply as soon as you can conveniently do so."

WB Buys Milne Book

"Old Enough to Know Better," dramatic story by Peter Milne about a postwar aviation venture of two ex-army flyers, has been acquired by Jack L. Warner, executive producer of Warner Bros. and assigned to producer William Jacob's schedule. Milne will also do the screenplay.

Para '47-8 Sked Most Costly Yet

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of Paramount shorts made them profitable for the exhibitor and the company, he said.

Mitchell told the Canadian representatives about Paramount's plans for pre-selling, a form of assistance to the exhibitor which had enriched both the company and its customers.

The 1947-48 program is tentatively as follows:

"Wild Harvest," with Alan Ladd, Bob Preston, Dorothy Lamour and Lloyd Nolan; "Golden Earrings," the Mitchell Leisen vehicle, starring Ray Milland, Marlene Dietrich and Mervyn Vye of "Carousel" stage fame; "Where There's Life," the next Bob Hope riot; "I Walk Alone," from the stage play "Beggars Are Coming to Town," with Burt Lancaster and Elizabeth Scott; "Albuquerque," in color, with Randolph Scott, Barbara Britton; "Dream Girl," the Elmer Rice stage success, featuring Betty Hutton, Macdonald Carey; "Make You A Fihe Wife," with Phyllis Calvert, Melvyn Douglas; "Saigon," starring Alan Ladd, Veronica Lake; "The Big Clock," a John Farrow production, with Ray Milland, Maureen O'Sullivan, Charles Laughton, Elsa Lancaster; "Webb of Days," with Paulette Goddard; "The Sainted Sisters," with Betty Hutton, Diana Lynn, John Lund and Stirling Hayden; "Foreign Affairs," which will be produced and directed by Brackett and Wilder and starring Jean Arthur; "So Evil My Love," now being produced in England by Hal Wallis, with Ray Milland, Ann Todd and Geraldine Fitzgerald; "Road to Rio," with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour, supported by the Andrew Sisters, Jerry Colonna and directed by that ace comedy director, Norman MacLeod; "Whispering Smith," in Technicolor, starring Alan Ladd, Bob Preston and Brenda Marshall; "Shaggy," which will be produced in color by Clarion Productions; "Hatter's Castle," the powerful A. J. Cronin story with James Mason, Deborah Kerr and Robert Newton. In addition to the above, there will be six "action" pictures produced by Pine-Thomas.

Warners Name Stars For 'To The Victor'

Dennis Morgan and Viveca Lindfors will star in Warner Brothers' forthcoming melodrama of post-war Europe, "To the Victor." Jerry Wald will produce and Delmer Daves will direct. Richard Brooks is preparing the screenplay from his own original.

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There Were 10,000 Fans on Hand to Help Create Variety Village



N. Battleford Council Checking Permit

A proposal by Famous Players Canadian Corporation to build a new theatre in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, was held in abeyance by council while the authenticity of a permit from the Provincial theatre inspector to another theatre builder was being checked. This latter house is at present under construction.

Members of a group intending to build a community theatre were the ones who questioned the permit and they stated that they will withdraw if the letter is found to be authoritative.

At present the only theatre operating is Famous Players' 510-seat Empress.

Ballerina Tested

Ricky Soma, 18-year-old ballerina, is being screen-tested for the lead role in Jesse L. Lasky's "The Miracle of the Bells."

Elmer Yoter, Toronto Maple Leaf manager, and Tommy Thomas, manager of the Baltimore Orioles, flank Chief Barker John J. Fitzgibbons at the great game in behalf of Variety Village. In the next photo we see Yoter and the crippled kids who occupied Ted Covert's Royal Box.

First photo on the bottom shows Mayor Robert Saunders and Fitzgibbons with the youngsters and in the other photo we see Conny Smythe of the hockey Maple Leafs with Peter Campbell of the baseball Leafs.

Shooting Started On Mono's 'Big Flight'

Carl Krueger, Monogram producer, has started filming of his air feature, "The Big Flight," at March Field, with active co-operation of United States Army Air Forces. Making their first appearance in a dramatic film, five squadrons of Shooting Star (P 80) jet planes took part in maneuvers, with Henry Sharp and William Clothier photographing the action.

Krueger recently handled deal for Monogram release of the USAAF Technicolor film, "Thunderbolt."

Jane Wyman Signs New WB Contract

Jack L. Warner, executive producer of Warner Bros., announced that Jane Wyman, starring in the current "Cheyenne," had been signed to a straight ten-year contract which will continue her association with the Burbank studio for a total period of more than 20 years. The new pact begins January 1, 1948.

Edgar Bergen Cast

Edgar Bergen will have the comedy lead in RKO's "I Remember Mama."

New NFB Short Is 'Mexico Today'

Latest National Film Board release is "Mexico Today," a short which is a comprehensive picture of that country and its people. In two distinct parts, the film shows the old Mexico with its adobe huts, poor lands and miniature industries as compared with the modern Mexico of fine architecture, up-to-date ideas and progressive national life.

Of particular interest to Canadian audiences is the showing in the short of the growing friendliness and increasing trade and cultural relations between the two countries.

Aussie Star Cast

Ron Randell, Australia's favorite male star, has been assigned by Columbia to play the romantic role of the family doctor in the Susan Peters-Alexander Knox starrer, "The Sign of the Ram."

Cynthia

with Elizabeth Taylor, George Murphy
MGM 98 Mins.

INTELLIGENTLY PRODUCED, DIRECTED FAMILY DRAMA FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE ACCEPTANCE.

Intelligent understanding of what constitutes entertainment for all the audience, particularly for the female portion is very much in evidence throughout the unreeling of this story.

Miss Taylor is the chief target of the story's focus. Her portrayal of a misfit adolescent school-girl who at length flowers into womanhood is highly effective. Veterans in the cast besides Murphy—Mary Astor, S. Z. Sakall, Gene Lockhart, Spring Byington—brace the plot considerably with solid roles, soundly performed.

Storywise it is insight into the lives, loves, hopes, happiness, parenthood, idiosyncrasies and economic problems of small town folk. At first Murphy and Miss Astor are seen as college students falling in love, planning careers and study abroad. They marry instead. Parenthood cancels their fond hopes. Murphy becomes manager of a hardware store, Miss Astor mothers Miss Taylor. From that point on it is Miss Taylor with whom the script is mainly concerned. She is a frail child, under constant medical supervision. S. Z. Sakall gives her singing lessons to improve her "thoracic" muscles. She's a good singer and he encourages her.

While father Murphy relies on Gene Lockhart for guidance to everyone's dismay and disgust, Miss Taylor is exposed to James Lydon, a returned vet student, cynosure of the school's female roster. Miss Taylor falls ill and fails to appear in a school-produced operetta. She would have become an outstanding social success if she performed. However, Lydon takes her to the prom and after that night conflicts that are slowly boiling are resolved to an ultimate intelligent conclusion.

CAST: Elizabeth Taylor, George Murphy, S. Z. Sakall, Mary Astor, Gene Lockhart, Spring Byington, James Lydon, Scotty Beckett.

CREDITS: Producer, Edwin H. Knopf; Director, Robert Z. Leonard; Screenplay by Harold Buchman, Charles Kaufman; Based on a play by Vina Delmar; Photography, Charles Schoenbaum.

DIRECTION, Effective. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

In Gene Autry Film

Gloria Henry, Columbia starlet, was chosen by Gene Autry Productions as the cowboy star's leading lady in the Cinecolor production "The Strawberry Roan," his next picture for Columbia.

The Brasher Doubloon

with George Montgomery, Nancy Guild
20th-Fox 72 Mins.
ANOTHER "PHILIP MARLOWE," ANOTHER TRADE MARK. ALL ADD UP TO TOP LINE SLEUTHING ENTERTAINMENT. THIS ONE IS DEFTLY HANDLED FOR GOOD RESULTS.

With "The Brasher Doubloon," an adaptation of Raymond Chandler's "The High Window," the full-length Chandler literary jobs are about exhausted. That they were good material for translation into film fare is a fact of recent date. The "Marlowe" role has given fine players opportunities for fine portrayals. There is no letdown by Montgomery herein for he delivers another smooth, amorous portrait to an already glittering gallery.

Like most of the Chandler stories, this one strays around. Bodies are found. Blackmail is rampant. All sorts of ugly characters walk in and out of the doings. There is the pretty girl who at once becomes a "Marlowe" target. Engaged at the usual \$25 per diem plus expenses, Montgomery is hired by Florence Bates to locate a missing coin from her late husband's collection. It's the Brasher Doubloon. There's only two of them in existence. The other is in the Smithsonian Institute.

From here, to there, and back again, Montgomery makes his rounds picking up a bit here, sifting this and that and stumbling upon a few bodies in due course of research. Method and interview nets him an assortment of lethal hardware and thereby hangs a clue for murder.

Miss Guild is in and around the doings as a sort of mental case. Secretary to Miss Bates, she conveys to the scene a mood of confused purpose. Certain aspects of the case hinge on her inability to remember clearly and Montgomery attempts to assist her to overcome abnormal revulsion to normal instincts.

The dirty business comes to a head with the screening of newsreel footage which figures in the blackmail-murder-mayhem and finally the finger points.

CAST: George Montgomery, Nancy Guild, Conrad Janis, Roy Roberts, Fritz Kortner, Florence Bates, Marvin Miller.

CREDITS: Producer, Robert Bassler; Director, John Brahm; Screenplay by Dorothy Hannah; Adaptation by Leonard Praskins from the novel by Raymond Chandler; Musical Direction, Alfred Newman; Cameraman, Lloyd Ahern.

DIRECTION, Very Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, First Rate.

MGM's 'Red Mill'

Red Skelton and Keenan Wynn are teamed for MGM's "The Red Mill."

Winter Wonderland

with Lynne Roberts, Charles Drake
Republic 71 Mins.
LIGHT, ROMANTIC JOB HAS THRILLS, SPECTACLE, FINISH; EASY TO TAKE OFFERING.

A romance on slats, "Winter Wonderland" supplies a routine romance, a brief sojourn at a swanky Winter resort hotel, many snowscapes, lightweight drama to bolster the lovers. But the best parts of the doings are captured by the camera when the concluding ski race is filmed. Photographically superb ski action shots are edited into the story to give the whole a fine, exciting concluding note.

Lynne Roberts is the farmer's daughter from a nearby valley when she meets Charles Drake while out skiing. He's an instructor at Skyline Lodge. First thing you know it's love and Miss Roberts is away from her chores every afternoon rehearsing in Drake's ski ballet. Miss Roberts' father, Roman Bohnen, owns a meadow the Lodge wants for a ski run. He won't sell. Eric Blore figures in the doings as manager of the Lodge. Things run along, mostly through the snow, with Drake and Miss Roberts skiing all over the place and getting more and more romantic. Mary Eleanor Donahue is Miss Roberts' younger sister who covers up for her.

One day Miss Roberts falls into a chasm. Late that night she's rescued, spends a night at the Lodge where she is mistaken for an heiress due to the similarity of her name with that of a local millionaire. She incurs quite a bill. To pay it she quickly cures a hangover next morning and wins the men-women ski race when Drake takes a spill. Clinch. This latter ski race is the real thing, gives the story a great deal of spectacle quality.

CAST: Lynne Roberts, Charles Drake, Roman Bohnen, Eric Blore, Mary Eleanor Donahue, Renee Godfrey, Harry Tyler, Renée Riano, Diana Mumby, Alvin Hammer.

CREDITS: Associate Producers, Walter Colmes, Henry Sokal; Director, Bernard Vorhaus; Screenplay, Peter Goldbaum, David Chandler, Arthur Marx, Gertrude Purcell; Idea, Fred Schiller; Photography, John Alton.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Cast In Musical

Jean Porter will have the lead in Columbia's "Three Blondes and a Red Head."

'Your Red Wagon'

Cathy O'Donnell and Farley Granger will have the leads in RKO's "Your Red Wagon."

Calcutta

with Alan Ladd, William Bendix, Gail Russell
Paramount 83 Mins.

MELODRAMATIC WHODUNIT DEPENDS UPON LADD, BENDIX AND RUSSELL PLUS EXPLOITATION ANGLES FOUND IN COLORFUL SETTINGS AND BACKGROUNDS.

It's really up to Alan Ladd, William Bendix and Gail Russell, plus exploitation angles inherent in the story and settings, to carry this one.

Lethargy stalks through "Calcutta" most of the way. There are moments when it perks up. One, for particular note, is when Alan Ladd slaps Gail Russell about in an effort to make her talk. After a brief going over she does, too.

A few of the quaint customs of a certain Hindu sect are involved in the script. Such as strangling. Thuggee is its Far Eastern appellation. A quiet sort of murder. This happens to John Whitney at the outset, before he has completed performing in one reel. Later it almost happens to Ladd. Meanwhile, when he learns of pal Whitney's death, Ladd, in cahoots with William Bendix, take leave of flying duties—they fly the Hump from India to China—to find Whitney's murderer.

From that point forward the script drags its pages through the city and Ladd is seen romancing with June Duprez, playing hard to get with Miss Russell, tracking down clues in curio shops, generally getting about the city. When Paul Singh is knocked off Ladd begins to see the light. Meanwhile Bendix is in jail under suspicion. The crux of the matter is large-scale smuggling of jewels into China and somebody slipped up. Ladd gets his man, loses his woman. But there's always Miss Duprez available. And she loves him.

This is no classic exercise for cinematic sleuths. The pace is slow, there is much unimportant talk. A few situations manage, however, to lend color and suspense to the doings.

CAST: Alan Ladd, Gail Russell, William Bendix, June Duprez, Lowell Gilmore, Edith King, Paul Singh, Gavin Muir, John Whitney, Benson Fong.

CREDITS: Produced and Written for the screen by Seton I. Miller; Director, John Farrow; Cameraman, John F. Seitz.

DIRECTION, Adequate. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Gets British Medal

Notification of the bestowal upon him of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Degree of Honorary Officer, was received from the United States War Department recently by Frank Capra, who served as a colonel in the war.

Do you know what it means to
There's great business

NEW ORL

WOODY HERMAN
and
HIS ORCHESTRA

The Solid Musical Treat
That Will Pack Canadian
Theatres From Coast To Coast!

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DE CORDOVA • PATRICK in
"NEW ORLEANS"
with MARJORIE LORD • IRENE RICH
JOHN ALEXANDER • RICHARD HAGEMAN
LOUIS ARMSTRONG and HIS BAND and BILLIE HOLIDAY
WOODY HERMAN and HIS ORCHESTRA
ORIGINAL NEW ORLEANS RAGTIME BAND
Louis Armstrong • Zutty Singleton • Barney Bigard
Kid Ory • Bud Scott • Red Callendar
Charlie Beal and Meade Lux Lewis
Screenplay by Elliot Paul and Dick Irving Hyland
From an original story by Elliot Paul and Herbert J. Biberman
Produced by JULES LEVEY • Directed by ARTHUR LOBIN

MISS New Orleans?

when you play...

JEANS



Here's business from U A



A Good Time Was Had . . .

The Pioneer picnic at Charlie Mavety's place provided a great day in the sun for hundreds of trade and non-trade persons of all ages and was complete, even to someone falling into the creek.

Charlie, who donated his ranch to help the benevolent fund, was togged out in full cowboy costume and looked as though he was fresh from Central Casting. There is a strange tale around about Charlie and Johnny Cohn engaging in a contest to see who could swallow the most beverage while holding a large chaw against one jowl, with John winning. That I would like to have seen and if Charlie has any pride he will ask for a rematch.

The several hundred present patronized the booths or romped around on Mavety's equine boarders and generally put in a busy afternoon and evening.

Hardest working lad was Len Bishop, who chairmanned the entertainment committee, and he was supported by Glenn Ireton, whose figure is back where it was 20 years ago as a result of bending so often to pick up hoop-la rings from the ground. After 10,000 bends a stroke of genius saved him from another kind of a stroke. He put his son Gabriel to work and junior, being built about two-and-a-half feet off the ground, didn't mind at all.

Walter Kennedy, Don Gauld, Doug Rosen, Stan Gosnell, George Oullahan and Howard Elliott, along with femme volunteers, put in a mighty busy day barking and collecting.

It was quite an event, especially if you won a prize—as who didn't?

Variviews, Etc.

We have some pix of the Variety ball game in this issue but the best ones were lost when some louse stole one of Nat Turofsky's holders. . . Mrs. Jimmy Nairn was hit with a foul ball while watching the game but shook it off. . . Incidentally, Associated Screen News contributed trailers and prints to help boost the game. ASN, I hear, is about to revive its excellent Canadian Cameo series. . . It is expected that Col. William McCraw will be the speaker at the next meeting of Variety and may be on hand for the great special showing of "Variety Girl" at the Imperial on August 28th. The proceeds will go to Variety Village and they may be boosted by the presence of a film star. . . The Montreal Poster Exchange of Tommy Trow and Johnny Ganetacos took over Ben Garson's Cinema Service. It now distributes accessories for five exchanges. . . Montrealers are furious over the unreasonable number of censorship deletions. . . Massey Hall's hard seats may be replaced with Push Backs. . . National Film Board golf tourneys will take place on July 7th and August 18th this year.

People and Things

Brightest social affair of the film community was the marriage of Allan Sharp to Geraldine Isman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Isman, in the Crystal Ballroom of the King Edward Hotel. Such Montrealers as Alex Metcalfe, Ike Sourkes, Larry Druxerman and Owen Lightstone joined with hundreds of guests from Toronto and other communities in well-wishing. Following the dinner there was a variety of toasts, delivered by guests introduced by Mickey. . . One of the officials at the Isman wedding was Cantor Bernstein, father of Jack of RKO, a synagogue singer himself. The Bernstein family has an unusual musical record. The cantor, whose father and grandfather before him were cantors, is one of six brothers, all cantors in different parts of the world. Jack, in keeping with the musical tradition of the family, recently became engaged to the well-known American concert artist, Mary Simmons. . . Speaking of good ideas, Ernie Warren of the Elgin, Ottawa, got Frank Kavanaugh to make him 25,000 paper creamer tops, which he distributed among the city's eating houses to boost UA's "The Red House."

The Old House

The old house on Bond Street stands empty and alone, an aged and aloof architectural aristocrat separated by space from its more modern companions.

Once, long ago, master and neighbor were proud of it. Through its handsome doors came men of high purpose. It was host to the great, known and unknown. It gave distinction to the street and the community. Proud citizens passed by with admiring glances.

Time is long and memory short. Today it bears bravely the marks of neglect and the scars of abuse. The windows, through which shone the light of hospitality, are blinded by boards and its entrance bears the garish advertising of a circus.

Nature's green rug, which once enriched the vision, is gone from its front and but a few tufts of grass remain. At the pavement's edge a tired tree inclines in a disinterested way.

Debris, weeds and rusted cans oppress the eye. In a mound of earth and rubbish one sees discarded articles. These too once enjoyed favor and are now cast aside.

The sides of the old house are bruised and broken where it has been disrespectfully jostled by the vehicles of the parking lot on which it stands.

But still, in a forlorn way, it maintains the ancient dignity that marked its bearing in happier days, when this was a charming avenue still far from the time of its conquest by commerce.

Time and man have not humbled this brave old house. Stately it stands, as though disdaining their mockery while waiting patiently for a return to its special place in the hearts of men.

A long time ago, as we moved toward nationhood, there lived and died in this house a man over whom historians still quarrel. He made an immeasurable contribution to democracy as we understand it today.

This man fought the usurpers of the people's rights and this led to persecution, incarceration and exile. The representatives of the citizens, grown accustomed to power, forgot their obligations to them. The sense of trust became perverted into a feeling of ownership. The rights of all were replaced by privileges for the few.

The voices of truth were drowned out by the drums and trumpetry of those who did not want them heard. It was then that this man rallied the disinherited. They elected him their spokesman in the councils of the day but their will was thwarted when he was refused his place in them.

Victory followed defeat and defeat victory, for his party, elected to power, was rejected a year later. He became an advocate of republicanism for Canada and this type of agitation culminated in an armed rebellion led by him. Many of his followers, loyal to the Crown and opposed only to its representatives, fell away.

The rebellion failed and he fled to the United States, from which he continued his unsuccessful opposition. During the years of his exile changes took place which were in themselves an acknowledgment that many of his earlier claims were just. Political executions were reduced and greater tolerance became a fact.

Twelve years after the rebellion he returned to his country under amnesty and a year later was again elected to the Assembly. But his exciting days were over. Politics had taken on a different character.

In a world in which so much blood was shed for democracy he has grown in historic stature. His personal and political battles were more often lost than won but his earlier principles endure. He has an important place in our annals.

Imbedded in the brown bricks of this house on Bond Street, for all to see or ignore, is a granite block, as strong as his character and courage and as shining as his principles. On it an inscription reads:

THIS HOUSE PRESENTED TO
WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE
BY HIS FRIENDS

HE LIVED HERE FROM 1859 UNTIL HIS DEATH ON
AUGUST 28, 1861.

Says Trade Dozes In Video Field

(Continued from Page 1)

Dominion. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, under whose jurisdiction it comes, seemingly has not differentiated between home and theatre television, nor has it announced any speeding up of the building of video stations.

In Great Britain, where television is one of the hottest issues ever to harass the British Broadcasting Corporation, it will be used to complement feature films in cinemas. The J. Arthur Rank Organization, through one of its spokesmen, claimed that it was aiming at the complete elimination of all "B" pictures and secondary features from its circuits and replacing them with televised programs. Although no such policy has been set for Canada, it is likely that Odeon Theatres of Canada, Rank subsidiary, will probably fall in line with this scheme. Odeon is at present committed to a \$20,000,000 building program here that will enlarge its circuit by 64 theatres, all of which will be equipped for tele screening.

At a recent meeting of the Radio Manufacturers Association in Chicago, Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America, stated in his address on television, "Time will tell whether a failure to face the facts is the best possible protection of studio investments and the theatre boxoffice."

Pointing out that there are some motion picture people alive to the possibilities of television in theatres, Sarnoff said, "There are many more, however, who are strangely indifferent to the new art, or perhaps they are waiting until television delivers itself on a silver platter to the motion picture industry.

"It was radio and electronics," he continued, "that gave the film its voice. It will be radio that will equip the theatre with a television eye. I believe that television can be as great a boon to the theatre as sound was to the silent picture."

Practically all the major Hollywood studios have become interested in video broadcasting. Leaders in this are Paramount and 20th Century-Fox, both companies being large stockholders in the Scophony Corporation of America and both of whom are affiliated with the Television Broadcasters Association, along with United Artists and RKO.

Wallis Signs Actress

Hal Wallis has signed Martitia Hunt, British character actress, for a top role in "So Evil My Love."

Dowbiggin Welcomed



Montreal's Tommy Dowbiggin, popular branch manager, was inducted into the Paramount 25 Year Club by Gordon Lightstone, who presented him with a scroll, a wrist watch and a diamond-studded pin. Tommy got into picture business in 1914, joined Paramount in 1922 and became Montreal manager in 1941.

Shooting Finished

Shooting has been completed on Walter Colmes' "The Burning Cross."

WB Signs Newcomer

Lila Leeds, 19-year-old blonde, has signed a term contract with Warners.

S. Percy Heiber, C.A.

MASTER OF COMMERCE

Waverley 2669 - 2660

21 Dundas Sq., Toronto, Canada

NFB Th. Series In 325 Houses

(Continued from Page 1)

is the fact that they are accepted commercially in competition with Hollywood short subjects.

The most prominent is the Canada Carries On series, which is distributed by Columbia Pictures of Canada. The French-language version, En Avant Canada, is handled by France Film. One in each series is released monthly.

Most NFB productions never reach the theatres but get national distribution on a large scale through 16 mm. film libraries and depots, community film councils and NFB non-theatrical circuits. After playing the well-organized rural, trade union and other circuits they go abroad in 27 languages to 60 countries.

Film-making is basically the same everywhere, whether in the lavish Hollywood fashion at miniature cities or in the long, low ramshackle former sawmill in Ottawa where the NFB turns out about 200 films per year.

Hollywood, however, thinks nothing of spending six-figure sums on 10-minute short subjects—although makers of one- and two-reelers have raised rentals because they cannot operate profitably on present terms. The National Film Board thinks several times before it ventures out of the four-figure class for a subject.

It's a problem!



"Two adults — one child, please!"

Variety Thanked By R. W. Hopper

In a letter to the Globe and Mail R. W. Hopper, executive director of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, paid tribute to the Toronto Tent of the Variety Clubs, International, for their project.

The letter follows:

"In establishing Variety Village, the Variety Club of Toronto is really breaking new ground. This will be the first residential vocational school for crippled children built in Canada. It has been a pressing need for many years but those who work for these handicapped youngsters had to wait and hope that some day somebody would make this dream a reality.

"There must be some magic in the world of make-believe which brings such miracles to pass. The members of 'Variety' are practical men with more than a modicum of imagination. They could picture the trials and the frustration of life in a wheel chair or with a crutch. They realized what it must mean to a boy or girl to face life without hope and without preparation. These men of action, whose lives are devoted to bringing joy, relaxation and recreation to the community, determined to help crippled children obtain all the advantages that are enjoyed by others.

"As far back as 1930 a commission of the Ontario Government recommended the building of such a school as that now undertaken by the Variety Club. But the Government moves slowly in such matters and seventeen years have passed since that recommendation. A whole generation of young Canadians afflicted with serious disabilities has now come and gone. Many of them sit helplessly at home because there was no way that they could learn to earn a living.

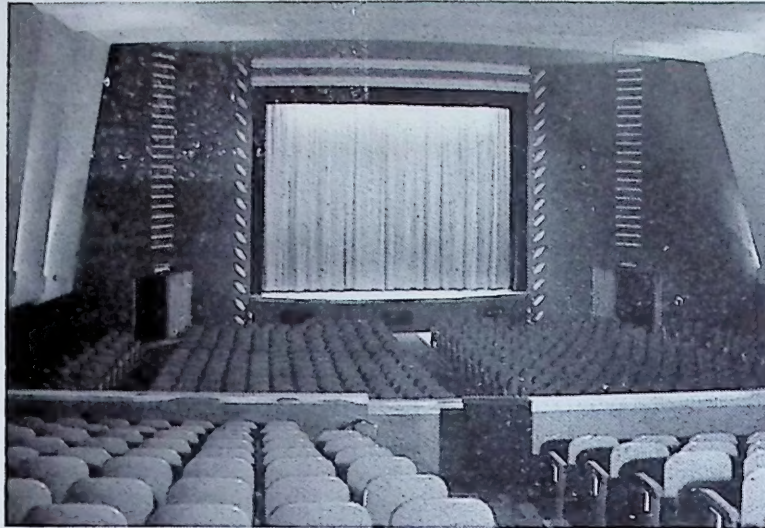
"When the Variety Club of Toronto was looking for a project worthy of its traditions and energies, the special committee under the chairmanship of Morris Stein asked the Ontario Society for Crippled Children what was considered the greatest need. Without hesitation the reply was 'A vocational school'.

"The Heart Committee and the whole Variety Club is now enthusiastically at work to fill a need, to bring happiness and opportunity to tortured lives and to build a living memorial to their great ideals of helpful service."

Eire Film Locale

John Ford will go to Ireland in 1948 to produce and direct Maureen O'Hara, Victor McLaglen and John Wayne in Maurice Walsh's "The Quiet Man."

Montreal's Newest Theatre



The auditorium of Montreal's newest theatre, the Avenue, is shown here. The chairs are Kroehler Push-Back and were supplied by Canadian Theatre Chair Company, Toronto.

Katzman To Produce

Columbia, has added to Sam Katzman's production schedule "The Corsair," based on the epic poem by Lord Byron, first published in 1814. Katzman is currently producing in Cinecolor the Alexandre Dumas classic, "The Prince of Thieves," starring Jon Hall, with Patricia Morrison and Adele Jergens.

Musicals Reissued

Warners will reissue the two musicals, Al Jolson's "Go Into Your Dance" and James Melton's "Sing Me a Love Song," as a double bill.

Una Merkel Signed

Una Merkel has been cast in Hollywood Eagle-Lion's "Texas Legend."

Another Milestone In Theatre Comfort

THE AVENUE THEATRE MONTREAL

Canada's first theatre to be seated
throughout with the

NEW KROEHLER PUSH BACK THEATRE CHAIRS

Now available in Canada

CANADIAN THEATRE CHAIR CO. Ltd.

40 St. Patrick St.

Toronto, Canada

Doctor, Capitol Boomed RKO Pic

Charles Doctor, manager of Famous Players' Capitol Theatre, Vancouver, utilized every possible angle in putting on a campaign for RKO Radio's "The Farmer's Daughter," which resulted in grosses exceeding the three other first run houses put together.

An advance screening was held for newspaper and radio people which paid off in numerous ways.

Al Williamson of the News Herald awarded Loretta Young his "orchid of the week" for her portrayal of the title role. The four-color mat of Miss Young, supplied by RKO Radio through its field man, Lloyd Muir, also appeared gratis in the Vancouver Daily Province a week in advance of the opening of the Dore Schary production. Novel coverage in the CCF News was a story by Roy Knight, member of Parliament for Saskatoon, drawing attention to the opening of "The Farmer's Daughter" in Vancouver. Dorwin Baird, critic on Station CJOR devoted his entire 15-minute review to a rave on the picture.

Doctor dressed his usherettes in farmerette costumes and took pictures which broke in the papers. Teaser ads were carried by all three papers for three days in advance of opening. Large numbers of "Farmer's Daughter" jokes were distributed around busy intersections and stores for three days by "Farmerettes" hitch-hiking their way with a suitcase labelled "See You at the Capitol Thursday—'The Farmer's Daughter'."

Latest RKO Short

"Passport to Nowhere," latest of RKO Pathe's "This Is America" series, is the story of Europe's homeless hordes who numbered six million at the war's end.

Studios Give \$10,000 To Aid Negro Fund

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, presented a gift of \$10,000 to the 1947 campaign of the United Negro College Fund in behalf of seven major Hollywood Studios. Participants in the gift are Columbia, Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox, Universal and Warners.

In making the contribution Johnston observed, "Dignity and liberty and tolerance still remain largely unachieved goals for too many people all around the world. . . . The very existence of this fund is a credit to our American democracy."



Paramount's 'Calcutta' Is Adventure Film

STARRING such boxoffice draws as Alan Ladd, Gail Russell and William Bendix, Paramount's "Calcutta" is the type of adventure film that attracts all ages and should give a good account of itself when the receipts are totalled.

Set in India, the picture deals with three buddies who fly "The Hump." They get involved in some jewel smuggling and one gets bumped off. His two pals, Ladd and Bendix, set out to discover his murderer and in the process meet up with their dead pal's girl friend, Gail Russell. Ladd falls in love with her, but when he becomes suspicious, forces a confession of the killing out of her and then hands her over to the police.



ERROL and KENNEDY COMEDIES

...TOP 'EM ALL"

—say the guys who play 'em!

"Poor Edgar, if he ever out-wits his brother-in-law and Mama, we're going to send him orchids. Our patrons just love to see him pushed around—and shout with glee!"

—Mattie Kimbrough,
Temple, Texas

"Usual good Edgar Kennedy with plenty of laughs!"

—Abe H. Kufman, Fountain,
Terre Haute, Ind.

"A good comedy which will make anyone laugh. Play it!"

—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount,
Dewey, Okla.

"Our Kennedy fans said this was his best; he lowered the ice cream freezer on his brother-in-law and the customers rolled in the aisles!"

—Roy Reeves, Brockton,
New Brockton, Ala.

"Leon Errol in 'Let's Go Stepping' is an excellent comedy!"

—James C. Balkcom, Jr.,
Gray, Ga.

"A scream for slapstick and one of his best ever, in my opinion."

—Terry Axley, New,
England, Ark.



R K O
RADIO
PICTURES

Here's down-to-earth, grass-roots laughter for everyone!
Year-after-year bookings by more than 8,000 theatres prove
that Errol and Kennedy subjects are ...

THE BEST 2-REEL COMEDIES ON THE MARKET!